potential of 3050 MW. Wind power capacity of 2036 MW has so far been installed in the State. Fiscal and promotional incentives are being provided by the Government. Loans are available for commercial projects from Financial Institutions including Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). The State Government has announced policy for wheeling, banking and buy back of electricity generated from wind.

Popularisation of Solar Energy

3657. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to popularize solar energy in homes and other establishments;

(b) whether there is any plan to use solar energy in all Government buildings and establishments; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the States where solar energy projects have been successful and which are the States where it had not taken off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing various programmes for promotion of solar thermal and solar photovoltaic devices and systems such as solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar air heating and steam cooking systems, solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems, solar street lights, SPV power plants and solar buildings. The programmes provide for financial assistance in the form of subsidy and/or soft loans to the users. Financial support is also provided to the State implementing agencies in various States. The Ministry is also providing grants for activities such as training, awareness promotion, market development and demonstration.

(b) A model regulation for making installation of solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in certain categories of buildings such as hotels, hospitals, guest houses, community centres, etc. has been circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development to all States for incorporation by the local bodies in their buildings byelaws. Some Municipal Corporations in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have adopted this measure which will be applicable to both Government and private buildings. Efforts are being made to persuade other States also to take similar action.

(c) The programmes of the Ministry are being implemented in all the States and Union Territories. The extent of solar energy usage depends on the size and population of the State, the level of electrification, availability of other energy sources, and the habits of the people. Among the States which have achieved a significant level of solar energy usage are Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

Providing free power connection to BPL

†3658. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a new scheme to provide 100% power subsidy for single point power connection to households falling under Below Poverty Line;

(b) whether the Minimum Needs Programme for rural electrification would be merged in the new scheme;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the same benefits to farmers; and

(d) if so, from which date the scheme will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all rural household in five years. The schemes would be implemented through Rural Electrification Corporation.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) sub-station in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.